

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A valve cover locking screw assembly for a reciprocating pump module block having a bore, which assembly comprises:

a removable valve cover closing said bore, and a valve cover locking ring with internal threads surrounding said bore; ~~which assembly comprises:~~

a valve cover locking screw having cylindrical walls with external threads, a closed top, and an open bottom; and

a plurality of threaded bolts engaging a plurality of threaded openings through said closed top and through said cylindrical walls of said locking screw so that said plurality of bolts forces said valve cover against said module block to create a fluid tight seal; and

a plurality of removable fasteners between said locking ring and said module block to secure said locking ring to said module block.

2. (Original) A valve cover locking screw assembly as set forth in Claim 1 including a circular gasket between said valve cover and said module block to assist in forming a fluid tight seal.

3. (Original) A valve cover locking screw assembly as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said bore in said module block includes a circular shoulder to receive said valve cover thereon.

4. (Original) A valve cover locking screw assembly as set forth in Claim 1 including an eye bolt extending from said valve cover to act as a handle for said cover.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) A valve cover locking screw assembly as set forth in Claim 1 wherein each of said threaded bolts and each threaded opening is parallel to an axis of said cylindrical walls of said locking screw.

7. (Original) A valve cover locking screw assembly as set forth in Claim 1 including a head extending from said closed top of said locking screw.

8. (Original) A valve cover locking screw assembly as set forth in Claim 1 wherein a diameter of said removable valve cover is slightly less than an inner diameter of said locking ring.

9. (Original) A valve cover locking screw assembly as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said locking screw retrofits with an existing valve cover and locking ring.

10. (Currently Amended) A method to secure and seal a valve cover to a module block for a reciprocating pump, which method comprises:

inserting a removable valve cover through a valve cover locking ring secured to said module block over a bore in said module block, wherein said valve cover locking ring is secured to said module block by removable fasteners;

threading a valve cover locking screw having cylindrical walls with external threads, a closed top, and an open bottom, in to said locking ring so that internal threads on said locking ring mate with said external threads of said locking screw; and

9 threading a plurality of bolts through threaded openings in said closed top and through
10 said cylindrical walls of said locking screw so that said bolts force said valve cover against said
11 module block.

1 11. (Original) A method as set forth in Claim 10 wherein said step of inserting said valve
2 cover includes using an eye bolt extending from said cover as a handle.

1 12. (Original) A method as set forth in Claim 10 including the additional step of inserting
2 a circular gasket against said module before inserting said valve cover.

1 13. (Original) A method as set forth in Claim 10 wherein said step of threading said
2 valve cover is accomplished by rotating a head extending from said top of said locking screw.

1 14. (Currently Amended) A method as set forth in Claim 10 wherein steps are performed
2 in reverse order to remove said valve cover.